

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1, 8-12, 14 and 15 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized Applicants' claim for foreign priority. It is also noted that the Examiner has not received the certified copy of the priority document.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kato et al. (U.S. Patent 5,083,596) or Groezinger et al. (U.S. Patent 4,620,580). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include additional limitations which were previously found in claims 3 and 7. Since this rejection was not applied against those claims, Applicants submit that claim 1 now defines thereover.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 8 were rejected as being anticipated by Nishikawa (U.S. Patent 6,343,843). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, amended claim 1 now includes the limitations previously found in claim 3. Since this rejection was not applied against claim 3, Applicant submit that claim 1 now defines over. Further, it is noted that the Examiner pointed out the use of surfactant material in the Nishikawa reference. However, this reference does not describe an emulsion of an elastomer and a surfactant. Further, it is noted that the priority date of the present application predates this reference. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Pace (U.S. Patent 3,361,698). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Since this claim includes limitations previously found in claim 7 and since this rejection was not applied against that claim, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is now allowable. The Examiner points out that various elastomer materials may be dispersed in liquid in the reference. However, this reference still does not show an emulsion of an elastomer and a surfactant. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-8 stand rejected as being anticipated by Hicks (U.S. Patent 2,797,721). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 includes the limitations previously found in claim 3. Since this rejection was not applied against that claim, amended claim 1 is considered to be allowable. Further, even though the Examiner states that the

reference shows various polymer materials and use of soaps, there is no discussion of the use of an emulsion of an elastomer and a surfactant. Further, since the tire is nearly filled with liquid, it is not seen that the cross sectional area of the tire irregularly changes during rotating. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 stand rejected as being obvious over Pace. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-8 stand rejected as being obvious over Hicks. Applicants submit that amended claim 1 would not be obvious over either of these references, since there is no teaching of the need for an emulsion of an elastomer and a surfactant. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 defines over this rejection as well.

Claims 9-14 stand rejected as being obvious over either Hicks or Nishikawa and further in view of Gerresheim et al. (European Patent 753420). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While the European reference describes a way to introduce a liquid material into tire, this apparatus cannot discharge a mixture of liquid damper and gas to form a foamable liquid damper. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome as well.

Claims 8-12, 14 and 15 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, these claims recite other features of the system, especially the apparatus for injecting the foam into the tire. Accordingly, these claims are additionally allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

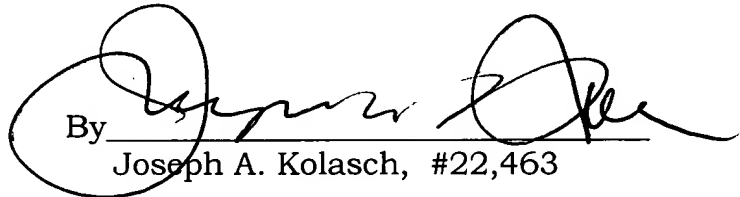
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$920.00 is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with markings to show changes made

(Rev. 11/28/01)



Appl. No. 09/742,080
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 2-7 and 13 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A tire noise reducing system comprising
a wheel rim,
a pneumatic tire to be mounted on the wheel rim to form an annular tire
hollow, and
a noise damper to be disposed in the annular tire hollow, wherein
the noise damper is a foamable liquid under use conditions and includes an
emulsion of an elastomer and a surfactant, and the noise damper has a certain
volume being capable of changing the cross sectional area of the annular tire hollow
irregularly in the circumferential direction during rotating.

8. (Amended) The tire noise reducing system according to claim [7] 1,
wherein

the liquid noise damper includes a foam stabilizer.

9. (Twice Amended) The tire noise reducing system according claim [6] 1,
which further comprises an apparatus for injecting the foamable liquid damper into

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the tire hollow, the apparatus comprises

a container for the foamable liquid damper,

a high-pressure gas source to let the foamable liquid damper from the container, and

a nozzle for discharging a mixture of the liquid damper and high-pressure gas to be injected into the tire hollow.

Claim 15 has been added.